

IN THE CLAIMS:

The following is a list of all pending claims including claims not amended by way of the present response.

Please replace claims 1 through 6, 28, 30, 31, 33 through 35, and 37 through 48 with the following claims, respectively.

1. (four times amended) A method for a single hardware platform to support multiple types of network service, comprising:

detecting a first request to establish a first network connection that flows through the hardware platform;

determining a first type of network service used by the first network connection;

downloading in response to the determining, to the hardware platform, software that is specific to the first type of network service;

executing the software to process traffic over the first network connection according to the first type of network service;

detecting a second request to establish a second network connection that flows through the hardware platform;

determining a second type of network service used by the second network connection;

downloading in response to the determining a second type of network service, to the hardware platform, software that is specific to the second type of network service; and

executing the software that is specific to the second type of network service to process traffic over the second network connection according to the second type of network service, the software that is specific to the first type of network service being executed simultaneously with the software that is specific to the first type of network service so that the hardware platform can simultaneously process traffic over the first connection and the second connection.

2. (four times amended) The method of claim 1 further comprising configuring a switch to direct the traffic that is associated with the first network connection, after being received from a physical line that transported it, to a processor that performs the executing of the software that is specific to the first type of network service.

3. (twice amended) The method of claim 2 wherein the downloading of the software that is specific to the first type of network service further comprises loading the software that is specific to the first type of network service into a memory that the processor has access to.

4. (three times amended) The method of claim 1 wherein at least one of the types of networking service is a voice transportation service.

5. (three times amended) The method of claim 1 wherein at least one of the types of networking service is an Asynchronous Transfer Mode (ATM) service.

6. (three times amended) The method of claim 1 wherein at least one of the types of networking service is a Frame Relay service.

28. (once amended) A method, comprising:

downloading a first software image to a card that can execute the first software image, the first software image being specific to a first type of networking service so that the card can provide the first type of networking service over a physical line that emanates from the card;

downloading a second software image to the card, the card also able to execute the second software image, the second software image being specific to a second type of networking service so that the card can simultaneously provide the second type of networking service over the physical line with the first type of networking service; and

downloading a third software image to the card, the card also able to execute the third software image, the third software image being specific to a third type of networking service so that the card can simultaneously provide the third type of networking service over the physical line with the first and second types of networking services.

29. (unchanged) The method of claim 28 further comprising loading the first, second and third software images into memory space that is available on the card.

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30. (once amended) The method of claim 29 further comprising executing the first, second and third software images so as to simultaneously provide the first, second and third types of networking service.

31. (once amended) The method of claim 28 wherein the physical line transports framed traffic.

32. (unchanged) The method of claim 31 wherein said physical line is a T1/E1 physical line.

33. (once amended) The method of claim 28 wherein one of the types of network service is a voice transportation service.

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34. (once amended) The method of claim 33 wherein another one of the types of network service is an ATM service.

35. (once amended) The method of claim 33 wherein another one of the types of service is a Frame Relay service.

36. (unchanged) The method of claim 28 further comprising configuring a switch that is located on the card to route traffic between a line interface that is located on the card and a processor that is located on the card and where the processor executes the second software routine.

37. (once amended) The method of claim 28 wherein the downloading of the first software image is in response to a connection of the first networking service type being attempted through the card.

38. (once amended) The method of claim 37 wherein the downloading of the second software image is in response to a connection of the second networking service type being attempted through the card.

39. (once amended) The method of claim 38 wherein the downloading of the third software image is in response to a connection of the third networking service type being attempted through the card.

40. (once amended) A card, comprising:

a) an interface to a physical line, the interface further comprising a line interface unit and a framer;

b) a plurality of processors that can simultaneously execute a plurality of service specific software routines that are downloaded to the card if the card is to simultaneously provide a corresponding plurality of networking service types over ~~the physical line~~; and,

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c) a switch that receives ingress traffic from the interface and routes the traffic to the processors.

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41. (once amended) The card of claim 40 wherein one of the types of networking service further comprises a voice transportation service.

42. (once amended) The card of claim 41 wherein the plurality of processors further comprise a plurality of digital signal processors that help to provide the voice transportation service.

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43. (once amended) The card of claim 40 wherein one of the types of networking service further comprises an ATM service.

44. (once amended) The card of claim 40 wherein one of the types of networking service further comprises a Frame Relay service.

45. (once amended) A card, comprising:

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a) first means for interfacing to a physical line;

b) second means for simultaneously executing a plurality of service specific software routines that are downloaded to the card if the card is to simultaneously provide a corresponding plurality of networking service types over the physical line; and,

c) third means for receiving ingress traffic from the first means and routing the traffic to the second means.

46. (once amended) The card of claim 45 wherein one of the types of networking service further comprises a voice transportation service.

47. (once amended) The card of claim 45 wherein one of the types of networking service further comprises an ATM service.

48. (once amended) The card of claim 45 wherein one of the types of networking services further comprises Frame Relay.
